

What is claimed:

1 1. An incoming mail monitoring system, said system comprises:

2 a data base that stores unique information affixed to mail;

3 a plurality of recipient addressee units that reads and stores the unique
4 information contained on the mail after the mail has been delivered to the recipient; and

5 a data center that receives information stored by the data base and the
6 recipient's units to identify the mailer to the recipient and assess the possibility of the
presence of life-harming material in the mail.

7 2. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data base stores unique
8 information contained in a postal indicia.

9 3. The system claimed in claim 2, further including a mailer's unit that
10 communicates with the data base and stores in the data base the time and date that the
11 postal indicia was affixed to the mail.

12 4. The system claimed in claim 2, wherein the data center correlates the
13 recipient address of the mail with unique information contained in the postal indicia.

14 5. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data base stores a unique
15 code contained in a stamp.

1 6. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the data base stores a unique
2 code contained in a label.

1 7. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient units include a
2 scanner that reads postal indicia that is affixed to mail.

1 8. The system claimed in claim 7, wherein the scanner captures and
2 interprets the information contained in the postal indicia.

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 9. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient units include a
scanner that reads a unique code that is contained in a stamp that is affixed to mail.

 10. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient units include a
2 scanner that reads a unique code that is contained in a label that is affixed to mail.

1 11. The system claimed in claim 1, further including:
2 a plurality of receptacles that reads, stores and communicates to the data center
3 unique information appearing on mail.

1 12. The system claimed in claim 11, wherein the unique information appearing
2 on mail is stored in the data base.

1 13. The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the scanner is located in a
2 control chamber.

1 14. The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the control chamber has a locked
2 door for isolating suspect mail.

15. The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the receptacle further comprises:
 an inner chamber that receives mail from the control chamber that is not
 suspected of having life harming material.

1 16. The system claimed in claim 12, wherein the inner chamber has a locked
2 door in which when open mail may be removed from the inner chamber.

1 17. The system claimed in claim 12, further including a slot for depositing mail
2 into the control chamber.

1 18. The system claimed in claim 8, further including: means for closing the slot
2 when the mail in the control chamber is suspected of containing life harming
3 substances.

1 19. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient's units comprise:
2 electronic postage units.

1 20. The system claimed in claim 1, wherein the recipient's units comprise
2 personal computer meters.